

Our Carcanet.

It Is Dark.

There comes seasons of darkness in all our lives—times when there are neither sun, nor moon, nor stars in the sky, and we stand still in fear, or grope, trembling. A few years ago there fell upon my life one of these seasons in which I could see neither to the right nor the left. A terror of darkness was upon me.

One night I lay awake, thinking, thinking, until my brow grew wild with uncertainty. I could not see a step in advance, and feared to move onwards, lest, with the next footfall, I should plunge into hopeless ruin. Very strongly was I tempted to turn aside from the way in which I was going—a way reason and conscience approved as right; but something held me back. Again and again I took up and considered the difficulties of my situation, looking to the right hand and the left for ways of extrication; now inclining to go in this direction, and now in that; yet always held away from resolve by inner convictions of right and duty that grew clear at the moment when I was ready to give up my hold on integrity.

So the hours went, heavy-footed, until past midnight. My little daughter was sleeping in the crib beside my bed. But now she began to move uneasily, and presently her timid voice broke faintly the stillness.

"Papa! papa!" she called.

"What is it, darling?" I asked.

"Oh! papa! It is dark! Take Nellie's hand!" I reached out my hand and took her tiny one in my own, clasping it firmly. A sigh of relief came up from her little heart. All her loneliness and fear were gone, and in a few moments she was sound asleep again.

"Oh! my Father in Heaven!" I cried, in a sudden, almost wild, outburst of feeling. "It is dark, very dark. Take my hand!"

A great peace fell upon me. The terror of darkness was gone. "Keep hold of my hand, O my Father!" I prayed fervently, and though I should be called to walk through the valley and the shadow of death, I will fear no evil. Let not my feet wander to the right or to the left."—*British Magazine.*

After Dinner.

LITERAL ANSWERS.

A lady noticed a boy sprinkling salt on the sidewalk to take off the ice, and remarked to a friend, pointing to the salt:

"Now, that's benevolence."

"No it isn't," said the boy, somewhat indignant, "it's salt."

So when a lady asked her servant-girl if the bird man cleaned off the snow with slatery, she replied:

"No, ma'am, he used a shovel."

The same literal turn of mind which we have been illustrating is sometimes used in fictionally and perhaps a little maliciously, and thus becomes the property of wit instead of blunder. Thus we hear of a very polite and impressive gentleman who said to a youth in the street:

"Boy, may I inquire where Robinson's drug store is?"

"Certainly, sir," replied the boy, very respectfully.

"Well, sir," said the gentleman, after waiting awhile, "where is it?"

"I have not the least idea, yer honor," said the boy.

There was an asherby who was accosted by an asetic middle-aged lady with:

"Boy, I want to go to Dover street."

"Well, ma'am," said the boy, "why don't you go then?"

One day, at Lake George, a party of gentlemen strolling among the beautiful islands on the lake, with bad luck, espied a little fellow with a red shirt and a straw hat, dangling a line over the side of a boat.

"Halloo, boy," said one of them, "what are you doing?"

"Fishing," came the answer.

"Well, of course," said the gentleman, "but what do you catch?"

"Fish, you fool; what do you s'pose?"

"Did any of you ever see an elephant's skin?" inquired a teacher of an infant class.

"I have," exclaimed one.

"Where?" asked the teacher.

"On the elephant," said the boy laughing.

Sometimes this sort of wit degenerates or rises as the case may be, into punning, as when Flora pointed pensively to the heavy masses of clouds in the sky, saying:

"I wonder where those clouds are going?" and her brother replied:

"I think they are going to thunder."

Also the following dialogue:

"Halloo, there! how do you see your wood?"

"By the cord."

"How long has it been cut?"

"Four feet."

"I mean how long has it been since you cut it?"

"No longer than it is now."

And also when Patrick O'Flynn was seen with his collar and his bosom sadly begrimed, and was indignantly asked by his officer:

"Patrick O'Flynn! how long do you wear a shirt?"

"Twenty-eight inches, sir."

This reminds one of an instance which is said to have occurred recently in that ham-street, New York, where a countryman was clamorously besieged by a shopkeeper.

"Have you any fine shirts?" said the countryman.

"A splendid assortment. Step in, sir. Every price and every style. The cheapest in the market, sir."

"Are they clean?"

"To be sure, sir."

"Then," said the countryman, with great gravity, "you had better put on one, for you need it."

(BY AUTHORITY.)

Laws of New Jersey.

CHAPTER XXIX.
An act to legalize certain publications in a newspaper known as the "Saturday Gazette" of Bloomfield.

1. Be it enacted by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey, That from and after the passage of this act, the sheriff, surrogate, county clerk, or

other officer of the county of Essex, be and they are hereby empowered to publish in the newspaper now published in the village of Bloomfield, in the county of Essex, and known as the "Saturday Gazette," any legal advertisement or other notice that they or either of them are now authorized to publish by law.

2. And be it enacted, That the comptroller of the State is hereby authorized to audit and draw his warrant for the payment of the bill of the "Saturday Gazette," for the publication of the laws of the session of eighteen hundred and seventy-three, at the same rate as allowed to other papers published in Essex county, on receiving proof of publication thereof.

3. And be it enacted, That any advertisement or notice published in said paper shall have the same effect, and be as legal as if published in any other paper in said county.

4. And be it enacted, That this act shall take effect immediately.

Approved February 17, 1874.

CHAPTER XLII.

A further supplement to an act entitled "An act authorizing the sale of lands held in trust in certain cases," approved April sixth, eighteen hundred and seventy-one.

1. Be it enacted by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey, That whenever by any last will and testament, lands and real estate are devised to or whenever by any deed, lands and real estate are conveyed to be in trust for any person or persons for life or until the happening of some event in such will or deed named, and said lands and real estate so devised or conveyed, shall or have become chargeable with or liable to taxes or assessments, for the payment whereof no adequate provision is made in such will or deed, by the estate of the testator, or provided for in such deed, and such lands and real estate have been sold or shall be liable to be sold for such taxes or assessments by virtue of any laws of this State whereby the interests of the owner or owners of the particular estate or of the estate in remainder in said lands and real estate, named in said will, or said deed, may be injured or impaired, it shall be lawful for the court of chancery of this State, upon application of any such owner or owners, and upon consideration of the circumstances of the case to appoint a trustee or trustees for said lands and real estate, and decree that such trustee or trustees of such land and real estate or any part thereof, shall be and they are hereby authorized to execute and perform such duties as may be required for the faithful performance of his or their trust, and shall make such sale as said chancellor may direct; and when such decrees shall be made and such bond given, said trustee or trustees or survivor may sell and convey said lands and real estate free, clear, and discharged of any interest of said owners therein; and the proceeds of such sale, after the payment of said taxes or assessments, shall be held by such trustee, subject to the provisions of said will or said deed relating to said lands and real estate, in such manner as the chancellor may direct.

2. And be it enacted, That this act shall take effect immediately.

Approved February 18, 1874.

CHAPTER XLIV.

An act to defray the expense of the Constitutional Commission.

1. Be it enacted by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey, That for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the Constitutional Commission appointed by the governor in pursuance of a joint resolution approved April fourth, eighteen hundred and seventy-three, the treasurer of this State is hereby directed to pay, upon the warrant of the comptroller, the following sums: for the expenses of stationery, printing, postage, &c., incurred by said commission in the performance of their duties, an amount not exceeding six hundred and seventy-five dollars; to the president and each of the members, the sum of three hundred dollars for the entire session, or proportionately for any part of the session; to each of the secretaries, the sum of five hundred dollars, and to the sergeant-at-arms, the sum of one hundred dollars.

2. And be it enacted, That this act shall take effect immediately.

Approved February 19, 1874.

CHAPTER XCV.

A further supplement to the act entitled "An act for the better securing the property of married women," approved March twenty-fifth, eighteen hundred and fifty-two.

1. Be it enacted by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey, That any married woman who now is, or may hereafter become entitled, by gift, devise, bequest, or any contingent estate, or any interest in any real or personal property or estate, may, with the concurrence of her husband, compound and receipt for, assign and convey the same, in all cases where she lawfully might, if a feme sole; and every release, receipt, assignment, discharge, agreement, covenant, or contract, thereupon entered into by her in regard to the same, and to the said property, shall be as valid and binding in every respect, upon her, her heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, and any and all persons claiming under her, them or either of them, as if she were, at the time of entering into the same, a feme sole, and when duly executed and acknowledged in the manner provided by law for conveyance of real estate, may be recorded in the surrogate's office, and whenever it relates to real estate in the clerk's or recorder's office, of the proper county or counties, in the same manner and with like effect as other receipts and discharges may now be recorded therein.

2. And be it enacted, That this act shall take effect immediately.

Approved February 24, 1874.

CHAPTER CXVI.

An act relative to the Public Printing.

1. Be it enacted by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey, That the laws enacted at each session of the legislature shall hereafter be printed in the same general style in which the volume of laws was printed in the year one thousand eight hundred and seventy-one, excepting that the laws shall be collated and indexed under the three heads of general public acts, special public acts, and private acts; also, that the legislative documents shall be hereafter printed in the same style in which the said work was done in the year one thousand eight hundred and seventy-one; also, that the journals of the Senate and minutes of the joint meetings, and executive sessions, and the minutes of the house of assembly shall be printed hereafter in a compact and workmanlike style; also, that the public bills ordered by either branch of the legislature shall be printed on good writing paper, with clear type, each page to contain thirty-one lines; and the prices to be paid for

the said printing shall be as follows: for printing three thousand copies of the session laws, the sum of forty dollars per sheet of sixteen pages; for printing one thousand copies of the journal of the Senate, and one thousand copies of the minutes of the house of assembly, the sum of thirty dollars per sheet of sixteen pages; for printing one thousand copies of the legislative documents, at the rate of one dollar per thousand ems for composition, and one dollar per token of two hundred and fifty impressions of sixteen pages for press work; for printing two hundred copies of the public bills, ordered by either branch of the legislature, at the rate of one dollar per thousand ems for composition, and one dollar per token of two hundred and fifty impressions of sixteen pages for the press work; provided, that in all cases where rule and figure work is required, the price for composition shall be double the rates above stated; and where matter requires two justifications, without rules, one price and a half shall be paid; and provided further, that one dollar extra per page, shall be paid for printing all indices and tables of contents set in bourgeois type in the session laws, journals of senate, and minutes of the house of assembly.

2. And be it enacted, That the above prices shall include all the expenses incident to the printing and delivery to the state treasurer of all documents ordered except folding and stitching, which shall be charged at the current prices for such work, and the paper, which shall be of good quality and of the following description: for the documents, journals, and minutes, white calendered printing paper, twenty-four by thirty-eight inches, weighing not less than forty-four pounds to the ream of four hundred and eighty sheets; for the laws, the same size as for the journals, and to weigh not less than fifty pounds to the ream of four hundred and eighty sheets; for the bills, to be on good flat-top paper, weighing fourteen pounds to the ream; the price to be allowed for such paper shall be at the lowest rate per pound which the same is sold by paper dealers in New York or Philadelphia during the first week in January; and satisfactory evidence of the price of such papers within the said period shall be submitted to the comptroller, before the allowing by him of any bill for paper on which any public printing shall be executed.

3. And be it enacted, That all messages, pamphlets, reports, or other documents which are deemed of sufficient public importance to be printed and bound for preservation, shall hereafter be embraced in one volume under the title of "Legislative Documents"; and no document or report shall be embraced in said volume, unless so ordered by the joint committee on printing; and when so ordered, the printer of any document to be printed in said volume of documents, there shall be one thousand copies thereof printed, which documents shall be numbered in the order in which they are ordered to be printed, and the governor's annual message shall be classed as document number one in said volume; when any document shall be ordered to be printed more than once, at periods more than four days apart, the printer thereof shall be entitled to charge for composition as above provided for, each time the document shall be so printed, and in no other case shall more than one composition be paid for the printing of such reports or documents.

4. And be it enacted, That in conformity with the act approved April sixteenth, eighteen hundred and forty-six, it shall be the duty of the clerk of the general assembly and the secretary of the senate to deliver copies completed of the journals of their respective houses, to the persons employed to print the same, within thirty days after the close of the session of the legislature; and in the event of the said clerk and secretary failing to deliver such copies as provided for in this section, they shall forfeit to the treasurer for the use of the state, one hundred dollars of their salary.

5. And be it enacted, That the indices to the pamphlet laws to the journal of the senate, the minutes of the house of assembly, and the legislative documents, shall be hereafter made out by the person or persons respectively who may be employed to execute said printing; and the sum of one hundred dollars each shall be allowed the said printers for compiling such indices; provided that said indices shall be printed in solid bourgeois type, and be made out alphabetically under one heading in the style of the indices respectively of the pamphlet laws, and the Senate journal for the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty-one.

6. And be it enacted, That William S. Sharp, of Trenton, shall be employed to print the senate bills, pamphlets, report of state officers for presentation to the legislature, and such other matter as may be ordered by the senate and house of assembly.

7. And be it enacted, That Godfrey H. Hays, of Burlington, be employed to print one thousand copies of the minutes of the house of assembly for the current year, in compact form, as per minutes of one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five.

8. And be it enacted, That John Y. Foster, of Newark, be employed to print one thousand copies of the journal of the senate and minutes of the joint meetings and executive sessions for the current year, in compact form, as per minutes of one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five.

9. And be it enacted, That George F. Nixon, of Burlington, be employed to print one thousand copies of the legislative documents of the current year.

10. And be it enacted, That Murphy and Bechtel be employed to print the bills of the house of assembly during the present session.

11. And be it enacted, That Chiwell and Wurts, of Paterson, be employed to print three thousand copies of the laws enacted at the present session of the legislature, which copies shall be delivered to the state treasurer, within six months after the said Chiwell and Wurts shall have received the copy thereof, and on failure thereof, the said Chiwell and Wurts shall forfeit the sum of five hundred dollars, which sum the said treasurer is authorized to hold and deduct from the amount due them for printing said copies.

12. And be it enacted, That it shall be the duty of the secretary of state to deliver, or cause to be delivered, to the persons who shall be employed to print the copies of the laws, a copy of every law passed at this session of the legislature, within thirty days after the passage of each law, and on failure thereof shall be compelled to pay to the person or persons employed to print the copies of the laws, any sum which he or they may have forfeited by reason of such default.

13. And be it enacted, That all acts enacted by the legislature, which shall conflict with the provisions of this act, be and are hereby repealed.

14. And be it enacted, That this act shall take effect immediately.

Approved March 3, 1874.

EXTRA ANNOUNCEMENT.

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